

leading views and principles of their Executive Trustees. I shall therefore, proceed to render
an account of the Executive proceedings of the last year, under the Resolutions and
directions of the General Assembly, and present to your consideration, my views upon
such subjects of prominent interest, as appear to me necessary and proper to engage
your attention.

Since your last annual Session, a melancholy and unexpected
event, has devolved upon me the duties of Chief Magistrate of our State. His
Excellency the late Governor Martin, at a period of life when he might reasonably
have anticipated a long career of usefulness, was, with the wisdom of Providence,
suddenly withdrawn, from the distinguished station which he filled with great
honor to himself and advantage to the public. No citizen deplored his loss
more than myself. The virtuous and manly cast of his character, was necessarily
felt by all who approached him, and especially appreciated by those, who, like
his Councilors, saw his true spirit in confidential and friendly intercourse.
This bereavement imposed upon me public duties, from the due execution
of which I did not feel myself at liberty to retire; and I am sure that the
indulgence and kindness of my Countrymen, will extend to me every allowance
which so unexpected an occurrence demands.

A communication was made from the Department to the
last General Assembly, enclosing copies of a letter from the President of the
United States, and of a Report to him by the then Secretary of War, in answer
to an application which had been made for the appointment of one or more of the
United States Engineers, to make a survey of the coast between Cape Charles
and Lewis Town Creek, on the Bay of Delaware. These Documents were regarded
as such an explicit refusal, on the part of the President, to comply with the
request of the General Assembly, and the refusal was placed upon such grounds,
as to destroy all rational hope of obtaining any aid from the National
Government, for the time being, in promoting the object of the General
Assembly. But notwithstanding the refusal was made upon the constitutional
grounds that the improvement suggested could not be regarded as of a
character to demand the attention of the National Government; yet in
a few weeks afterwards, the Secretary of War, by instruction of the President,
said that after the service of the year provided for by Congress, shall
be arranged and agreed upon, Engineers will, if practicable, be
detached to report to the Executive of the State of Maryland to make the
survey in question. A communication from General Smith, one of our
Senators in Congress, enclosing the letter from the Secretary of War,
from which the above extract is made, and also a subsequent com-
munication from the Secretary of War, to the late Governor of Maryland,
with a copy of the reply thereto, is herewith submitted for your consideration.
They will apprise you of the manner and of the agency by which the
abandonment of the ground specified in the first instance by the resolution
was effected, as well as that the tender of a compromise with the request
which was afterwards made, was rejected with a condition, which had
been anticipated, and, I suppose, could not be accepted, and